

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05
NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 TRSE-00 L-01 H-03
IO-06 PM-03 USIA-01 /056 W
-----105171 090151Z /72-62

R 081408Z JUL 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8094
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL ADANA
USCINCEUR GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5157

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, PINT, TU
SUBJECT: GOT REACTION TO MILITARY TAKEOVER IN PAKISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 5899 (DTG 050607Z JUL 77) (NOTAL)

1. THE TURKS, PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS, HAVE ALMOST IGNORED THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN PAKISTAN. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIRST DAY, HAS BEEN ON INSIDE PAGES. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS APPEARED IN TWO MAJOR AND THREE MINOR NEWSPAPERS. LEFTIST CUMHURIYET CONCLUDED THAT PAKISTAN'S "FEUDAL SOCIETY" CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS THE ULTIMATE CAUSE OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION. LIBERAL MILLIYET NOTES THAT SOME OSBSERVERS ARE SUGGESTING THE TURKISH POLITICAL CRISIS WILL ALSO PROVOKE MILITARY INTERVENTION. THE MILLIYET EDITORIAL ASSERTS THAT THE PAKISTANI AND TURKISH POLITICAL SITUATIONS DIFFER GREATLY, HOWEVER, AND THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION WILL NOT OCCUR IN TURKEY. THE THREE SMALLER PAPERS, ONE EXTREME RIGHTIST AND TWO EXTREME LEFTIST, CONCLUDED

THAT THE LESSON TO BE DRAWN FROM THE INCIDENT WAS THAT BHUTTO HAD PAID THE PRICE FOR ANTAGONIZING THE CIA.

2. NO TURKISH POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN. MFA SPOKESMAN JULY 6 TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT TURKISH-PAKISTANI RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY RECENT EVENTS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE, AS IRANIAN COURT MINISTER ALAM DID (REFTEL), TO DRAW A PARALLEL BETWEEN PAKISTANI AND TURKISH POLITICAL SITUATIONS. TURKS GENERALLY DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DONE SO, HOWEVER. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SITUATIONS ARE MORE MARKED THAN SIMILARITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, TURKEY HAS EXPERIENCED MILITARY INTERVENTION ONLY TWICE IN THE LAST 50 YEARS AND HAS BEEN UNDER A MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR LESS THAN 18 MONTHS. THE CURRENT MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN TURKEY IS NON-INTERVENTIONIST, AND ALTHOUGH ITS PATIENCE MAY NOT BE UNLIMITED, WE HAVE NO SIGNS THAT IT IS ABOUT TO RUN OUT. ALTHOUGH THE RECENT TURKISH ELECTIONS DID NOT PRODUCE THE DEFINITIVE RESULTS MANY PEOPLE HAD BEEN HOPING FOR, NO SERIOUS DOUBTS HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE FREEDOM AND FAIRNESS OF THOSE ELECTIONS NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY WIDESPREAD ABANDONMENT OF HOPE THAT A STABLE GOVERNMENT MAY EMERGE VIA CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS FROM THE PRESENT SITUATION. IN CONCLUSION WE DOUBT THAT MORE THAN A SUPERFICIAL PARALLEL EXISTS BETWEEN THE POLITICAL SITUATIONS IN PAKISTAN AND TURKEY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA05157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770244-0145
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770780/aaaacrbr.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1af5146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 TEHRAN 5899
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1930213
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOT REACTION TO MILITARY TAKEOVER IN PAKISTAN
TAGS: PINT, PK, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1af5146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009